

# Bethesda Life-Line

## Worship Services\*

Sunday 9:00 AM

Service of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday of each month.

Coffee fellowship is held in the fellowship room following the Sunday Worship service. All are invited to share in conversation and warm fellowship.



**Jan. 5 Sunday Worship** 9:00 AM  
**Communion**

**Jan. 12 Sunday Worship** 9:00 AM  
**Communion**

**Jan. 19 Sunday Worship** 9:00 AM  
**Communion**

**Jan. 26 Sunday Worship** 9:00 AM  
**Communion**

### Bethesda Mission Statement:

We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**  
we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**  
we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all

### Upcoming Events

**Jan. -1 Happy New Year!**

**Jan. 13-15 Men's Fishing Trip**

**Jan. -20 Council meeting**

**Feb 21- Ash Wednesday**



## January 2020



We thank you for being an active and faithful member of Bethesda Lutheran church's community. By giving to our church on a monthly basis, you're showing that our church has a meaningful place

in your heart. We just wanted to let you know that you're in our heart, too.

Donating to the church monthly allows us to preach the gospel, comfort people, and support others in our community who need help. We're answering the cry of the needy, and it's all thanks to contributors like you.

With the cancellation of our worship service on December 1<sup>st</sup>, due to bad weather, our donations are down. We want you to know that for your convenience we offer direct deposit forms that you can utilize year around, or for the winter months if you go south for the winter. Just let us know what date to start and what date to end your direct deposit. Forms are available in the secretary's office.

We earnestly appreciate your ongoing support and want to let you know we're here for you. If there's ever anything we can do for you and your family, don't hesitate to reach out. You are a valued member of our church family. And your financial support is making a difference.



## **From the Pastor**

Happy New Year, sisters and brothers in Christ!

Though some of you need little encouragement to be joyful, as you are likely reading this from some warmer, southern climate. As much as the time between Thanksgiving and New Year is a time of traveling for many, we are one of those congregations that sees a mass exodus this time of year. Caravans of Bethesda folks migrating south to Florida and Arizona.

I realize this is mostly due to Minnesota's frigid winter climate, but it does fit well with the Christmas story. Mary and Joseph journeying to Bethlehem for a census and then fleeing south to Egypt to escape the cruel and corrupt government of Herod, who sought Jesus' death.

One fun tradition I wish would spread up our way is the celebration of Las Posadas. Found primarily in Mexico and Latin America, and in Hispanic communities in the United States, Las Posadas remembers the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Spread over 9 days in December, ending on Christmas Eve, the name itself means "lodging" or "accommodation."

The story is reenacted with two people dressing up as Mary and Joseph, others may dress as angels or shepherds or even the donkey. Various households will serve as potential stops along the way, with the homeowners refusing them entry as there is no room in their "inn", until finally the large procession stops in front of the final house, which allows all to enter. Evidently the processions can get quite large - imagine hosting a party for our entire congregation! Prayers will be offered, songs will be sung, pinatas will be smashed, and abundant food and drink is shared with all.

I was surprised to discover this year that one of the traditional foods at Las Posadas actually has a long-lost relative here in Malmo. Though there seems to be many versions of the fried dessert Buñuelo, one variation popular around Christmas, Buñuelos de Viento (or "wind-fritters"), consist of dipping an iron rosette mold in very light dough and then deep frying it - basically the same as Scandinavian rosettes! I

fully support any tradition that gives us more reasons to consume rosettes.

But I am getting distracted by fried foods. The theme, I suppose, is more important than even the tastiest of treats. Being welcoming to others, whether family and friends or total strangers, is an essential Christian calling deeply embedded in the Biblical story. Whether we think of it literally or metaphorically, the concept of welcome and hospitality challenges us to be gracious no matter who shows up at our doorstep. No matter where they have been in life. No matter what we might assume about them. No matter if we think they are "worthy" or not of our generosity. Living a welcoming life exemplifies what it means to show forth to the world the incredible love of God.

We are all on journeys, even if some of us are living that out more literally than others. The passage of time leaves little room to avoid change and having to deal with the new and the different. It is human nature for many of us to want to keep it to a minimum, which is why we have the unfortunate tendency to judge those that bring more newness into our lives and bring change that we can't easily control.

But the Bible teaches us something different. Jesus himself represented both something deeply longed for by many and also something deeply feared by those uncomfortable by the change he would bring. God challenges us to offer welcome when something or someone new knocks on our door. Not that all change is good, of course, but new situations and new people provide new opportunities to show forth God's love.

Near the end of Paul's letter to the Romans, he concedes that at a few points in the letter he spoke rather boldly to them, but that he does so out of God's grace, so that the Gentiles might become an acceptable offering to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:16) Those early Christians, some of them from Jewish backgrounds and many not, had plenty of reasons to distrust one another and plenty of reasons to get on each other's nerves. Paul himself persecuted Christians. But he came to count on the hospitality of those whom he had persecuted.

If we try to find reasons to distrust our neighbor, whether they are familiar to us or not, we will find a

reason. But traveling through this life works best when we learn to trust one another, at least a little. We still need to keep our hands on the wheel and our eyes on the road, but if we never trusted anyone, we would never get anywhere.

So, whether you are planning to spend the next few months surrounded by sun and sand or frigid winds and fluffy snow, I hope that your New Year finds you surrounded by the love of God, lived out by familiar, friendly faces and new friends in the making.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor James Muske

### 2019 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$12,627	\$45,412
Income Budgeted	\$15,998	\$47,994
Expense Actual	\$13,854	\$39,951
Expense Budgeted	\$16,046	\$48,137
Over/(Short)	(\$1,227)	\$5,461

### Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of December 16, 2019, Council Meeting

In attendance: In attendance: Mary Braun, Dennis Hennessy, Ron Haglund, Dorothy Munding, and Pastor James Muske.

The meeting was called to order by council vice president Dennis Hennessy.  
Dennis gave opening Devotions.

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the November meeting by Dorothy Munding, seconded by Ron Haglund, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for November was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Ron Haglund to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Dorothy Munding and passed.

Pastor's Report

November 18 to December 16, 2019

Thank you to the choir for another wonderful Cantata – I really enjoy being part of the group... though I

will also enjoy the downtime for the next few months too. Thanks so much to Sheila for her leadership! Attended the synod's Middle School Gathering, Nov 23-24 (Sat/Sun). Thanks to Randy for filling in on Sunday. This was a great chance to reconnect with the confirmation students and to go with them to this long-standing fall event in our area.

As previously noted, I will start taking my share of confirmation classes starting Wed, Jan 8. One of their requirements this winter is to help plan and lead a worship service at Faith, Sunday, Feb. 9. My hope is to also get the students to lead a Lenten evening service here, so both churches get to see their faith in action.

We might want to start thinking now if our church would like to participate in the 2021 National Youth Gathering, held in Minneapolis this time, June 29-July 23, 2021. Both Faith and First Lutheran in Aitkin could be good partners for this event.

This is my month for communion services at the Aitkin senior living facilities. Led two last week and will be at Aicota and Aitkin Health Services this week. Also led the funeral service for Judy Wozney this month. Was grateful that Carolyn Morris and I were able to visit her down in St. Cloud before she passed.

The Together Here workshops are continuing up in Brainerd. The Monday, December 30 event will feature a conversation with Kevin Kot, a citizen of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, who leads a contextual Christian lodge with his wife Carol. Next month, Dr. Marsha Lue will discuss the concept of "implicit bias": what it is, how it impacts our abilities to form meaningful relationships, and its potential impacts on society. All the meetings will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

To remind from last month: Next year there will be an election for a new bishop for NE Minnesota. The synod website has a helpful page covering the timeline and other materials:

<http://www.nemnsynod.org/2020-bishops-election.html> . A few items:

Nominations are currently open for bishop candidates. Any ordained pastor in the ELCA may be nominated, but please speak with them first. Then nominations are forwarded to our conference dean (Rev. Mike Pancoast). Public notification of nominees should be posted by February 1.

On Feb. 9, 2020, all the conferences will host meetings where each will get the chance to select candidates to bring to the Synod Assembly. Pastor and voting members will attend this meeting. Afterwards, nominated candidates are invited to 3 public candidates forums: Calvary Lutheran in Mora on 3/12 at 7pm, St. Andrew's in Grand Rapids on 3/13 at 7pm, Grace in Hermantown on 3/14 at 2pm. The Bishop Election Committee (which I am a member of) has developed a helpful conversation guide for congregations. We should find a time to host one at Bethesda, but should also explore an online option for our winter travelers.

#### **Old Business:**

A Certificate of Insurance from the Helicopter transport company's Insurance showing the church as an additional insured on their policy has been requested. I am waiting for their response. Meeting scheduled with Edward Jones in Aitkin (Mark Baloun) turned out to be a no-show. They have not contacted Mary to schedule another meeting. Suggest visiting with Thrivent. Multi-media information update for the congregation still on schedule for December 22<sup>nd</sup> Scholarship Committee's request to remove the designated scholarship funds for easier access is on hold until we meet with Edward Jones. Janitorial concerns addressed.

#### **New Business**

Pledge request to Gustavus Adolphus College was given to Mission & Evangelism committee. Camp Onamia membership. Annual membership is \$2.50 per baptized member.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Worship & Music: Informational meeting on Sunday, December 22, 2019 to finalize Multi-Media Expansion Project.

#### **Faith, Health & Wellness Committee:**

Visits (home, NH, and Assisted Living): 16  
Phone contacts: 11 Home Communion: 2  
Stewardship & Finance: No Meeting

Motion was made to adjourn by Dorothy Munding, seconded by Ron Haglund, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

#### **Marge Garbo new address**

1514 Oakwood Ave, DeKalb,  
IL 60115



#### **New Years Resolution**

Do you have or need a New Year's Resolution? How about you attend a Bible Study? Your spiritual life is important – especially in this day and age. We learn and share our thoughts and beliefs we grow in the journey.

**AUDREY KULLBERG** Audrey passed away peacefully on November 29th, in Minneapolis. Her wishes were to have a private, family service in the Twin Cities, which will occur near Christmas. She also wanted to thank all of her Bethesda friends with a simple remembrance during coffee hour and fellowship after a Sunday services. We hope to make this happen in January. Thank you for your prayers and love.

#### **MAKE SOME PLANS FOR A GREAT**

**SUMMER EVENT!** When you see your loved ones this winter season, invite the kids ages 4 – 5 th grade to Vacation Bible School June 15-19, 2020. Six graders and older are welcome as student leaders.

#### **Thank you's**

**Malmo Bethesda: Centennial Cantata**, Day Of Song... Every pew was full as Bethesda Choir performed the 'Emmanuel—God With Us!' Christmas Cantata this morning. As the last soft strains of music faded, hearts were warmed and bright smiles beamed from every face. Thank you to everyone who attended despite the frigid weather. Thank you to Barb Forrester and Judie Birk for snapping photos. Thank you to Pastor James Muske for a lovely service. Thank you to all the dedicated choir members, and special thanks to Choral Director Sheila Penoyer for her year 'round hard work and leadership. MERRY CHRISTMAS to all from the Bethesda Lutheran Church Of Malmo Choir!

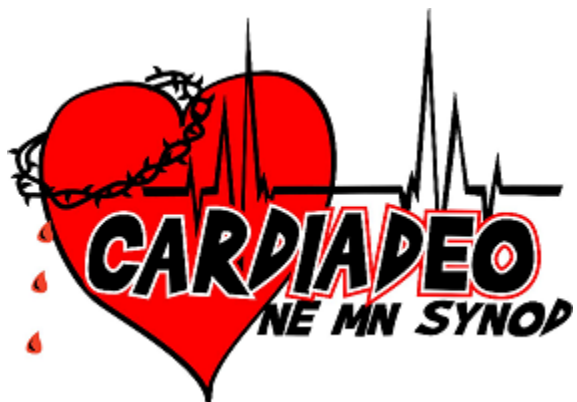
Cantata Participants: Sopranos: Carol Bakken, Mary Braun, Jeannine Bruesewitz, Carolyn Morris, Sherry Whipple. Altos: Val Benton, Char Berg, Darlene Christensen, Arty Heins, Laurina Tofteland. Tenors: Kathy Berland, Lee Forrester, Denny Meidlinger, Randy Tofteland. Basses: Jim Christensen Steve Lackner James Muske, Wally Swenson. Rehearsal Pianist: Jeannine Bruesewitz & Arty Heins! Thank you!





A Big **Thank You** to **Glen Meats** for the donation of the ham for our Christmas meal.

The Centennial Committee wants to thank all who participated this past year to make our Centennial Celebration a big success! We had a year full of fun fund-raising activities and brought in enough money to fully fund our party in August, plus more that will be donate. And Thanks to the members of the Centennial committee for their time, talents & dedication to the event.



**Cardia Deo February 28 - March 1, 2020**  
**Grades 9-12 Big Sandy Camp, McGregor**  
**Registration opens January 1st!**

We are Called, Gathered, Equipped and Sent to share the Heart of God (Cardia Deo) in the world. This year we focus on what it means to be Sent. Through Bible studies, worship, and time together, youth and adults will experience and learn to share the hope of God's love story in the world.

Cardia Deo is a full weekend of fun and faith-nurturing activities including Bible studies, a mystery event, service learning, worship, and camp life—all planned and led by the LYO Board! An adult track led by the retreat chaplain feeds the faith of adult leaders as well!

Cardia Deo is much more than an event. It is space in a busy world to be - to be away from the demands and pressures of daily life, to be yourself in a safe space, to be in community with people who accept you as you are, to be challenged to learn and grow in faith, and to be loved by God...so you can return home transformed to be the

person God has called, gathered, equipped and sends you to be! Whether you bring one youth or a dozen, we hope you join us at Cardia Deo this year! More information at [www.nemnsynod.org/CD](http://www.nemnsynod.org/CD).



## Choir News

First off, I want to Thank all of my choir members for a great choir season. The Cantata, Emmanuel, God With Us, was presented on Dec. 15th at 9:00, and the choir did such a wonderful job. I was so proud of all of the members of the choir! Steve for doing the Narration, Randy & Laurina for singing Solos, Jim for the precision of the Music, and for all the singers who worked very hard to sing so beautifully for the congregation!! As I told all of the choir members as we were taking off our robes after the Cantata. I said to them, "That was just so awesome!!!" "I could not have asked for anything more that what they presented. The choir will be taking a little winter break and will be starting back in the Spring. The Praise Team will be working on some new songs this winter and will not be doing our regular services for the couple of months. Val & I need a little hiatus from the craziness for just a couple of months. Praise Team will try and Practice on Sunday mornings after service and hope to be back by March to sing our Second Sunday Service. I want to Thank all of the choir members for the wonderful music thru the summer, our Praise Team for their dedication to singing Contemporary Music for us, and the bells for rounding out our musical talents as we all look to continue onward to the next year. Thank you to the Congregation for all of your support to our Bethesda Music groups. As we look to 2020, may God Bless, and guide us all to another great year of beautiful music at Bethesda Lutheran of Malmo. Peace and Joy to all of my church family at Bethesda!

Sheila Penoyer/Choir Director

# Activities & Events

January 2020

If anyone is unable to fulfill an assignment below, please find your own substitute or notify the coordinator

## Ushers

by Skip & Lynn Hansen

**Jan. 9:00**

Jan 5 & 12 George, Kathy Larson

Jan 19 & 26 George, Patti Smith

Check list in office for when to light the Christ Candle\*

**Don't forget the blessing boxes the first Sunday of every month!!**

## Usher Reminder

With Communion every Sunday, ushers need to make sure 3 people are helping with communion at the first service Call Skip or Lynn Hanson with any questions.

## Altar Care by Dianne Jones

Jan 2020: Lynne Meidlinger and Linda Southworth

Feb: Lynne Meidlinger and Winnie Zahradka

March & April: Shirley Gosselin and Gina Rosa

May: Elsa / Chuck Carlson and Karen Elias

## Recycling

Chuck & Elsa Carlson

## Coffee Servers

by

### WELCA

Jan 5

Jan 12

Jan 19

Jan 26



## Greeters



Lynne Meidlinger

Jan 5 Maynard, Kathy Berland

Jan 12 Pat Becker, Char Berg

Jan 19 Barry, Donna Ansell

Jan 26 Chuck, Elsa Carlson



Jan 16 Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Jan 19 Richard & Linda Hansen

Jan 25 Ted & Ruth Jaszczak



Jan	1	Dennis Bistodeau
Jan	1	Hunter Westerlund
Jan	3	Ardis Kendall
Jan	8	Pat Kullberg
Jan	8	Wally Swenson
Jan	9	Alanna Tibbetts
Jan	11	Savannah Elliott
Jan	12	Joan Halvorson
Jan	14	Michael Lofgren
Jan	14	Gene Whipple
Jan	15	Mason Modrow
Jan	16	Corrine Becker
Jan	16	Gloria Christensen
Jan	18	Darlene Christensen
Jan	18	Margaret Holmberg
Jan	19	Carol Bakken
Jan	19	Shirley Moe
Jan	20	Audrey Bistodeau
Jan	21	Keith Kellen
Jan	23	Will Petersen
Jan	24	Patti Honnold
Jan	24	Dave Stueven
Jan	26	Bruce Gingerich
Jan	26	Joanne Stueven
Jan	27	Samantha Rae Lebens
Jan	28	Del Jones
Jan	28	Kristine Kral
Jan	28	Kristin Penoyer
Jan	28	Richard Seifert
Jan	29	Larry Liljenquist
Jan	29	Janet Tousignant
Jan	29	Winnie Zahradka
Jan	31	Susan Darmer
Jan	31	Kathy Larson



# January 2020



## JANUARY Bethesda Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 8:00 R.o.m.e.o. 10:00 Tree Take Down 11:30 Fun timers	3 10:00 Bones Builders	4
5 9:00 Worship Communion 10:15 Sunday school	6 9:00 Women's Devotion @ Pat Beckers 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg	7 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	8 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitchers	9 8:00 R.o.m.e.o. 11:30 Pot luck & Fun Timers	10 10:00 Bones Builders	11
12 9:00 Worship Communion 10:15 Sunday school	13 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg  <b>Men's Group fishing trip to Lake of the Woods</b>	14 9:00 Quilters 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	15 8-12 WTC 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitchers	16 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers	17 10:00 Bones Builders	18
19 9:00 Worship Communion 10:15 Sunday school  Newsline Deadline	20 11:30 Pinochle 10:00 Council  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg	21 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	22 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitchers	23 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers	24 10:00 Bones Builders	25
26 9:00 Worship Communion 10:15 Sunday school	27 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg	28 9:00 Quilters  12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	29 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitchers	30 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers	31 10:00 Bones Builders	

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### ***The Lifeline Mission***

We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**  
we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**  
we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all



#### Bethesda Telephone Directory

Church	bclmalmo@gmail.com	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		bclmalmo.org
Facebook page		Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
Pastor	James A. Muske	(320) 684-2123
Council President	George Smith	(320) 537-1020
Vice President	Dennis Hennessy	(651) 247-2283
Parish Nurse	Darlene Christensen	(320) 279-0097
Parish Nurse	Kathy Berland	(218) 838-6181

**To share articles and/or information, mail to:**

**Sue Stebbins, *Lifeline Editor***

**c/o Bethesda Lutheran Church**

**Email address: [bllnews@juno.com](mailto:bllnews@juno.com)**

All articles due on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month